

American Medical Association

Physicians dedicated to the health of America



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April 6, 2005

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and its physician and medical student members, I am writing with regard to your recent introduction of S. 347, the "Advance Directives Improvement and Education Act of 2005." The AMA strongly believes that educating the public about the importance of having an advance directive should be a national public health priority.

The "Advance Directives Improvement and Education Act of 2005" is consistent with AMA policy supporting physician involvement in encouraging their patients to execute an advance directive long before they become seriously or terminally ill. The AMA strongly believes that advance directives are the best way to ensure that an individual's wishes for medical care will be honored if he/she is unable to make health care decisions for himself/herself. We are pleased to support S. 347 and thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MD Maves", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA